

Community Homelessness Advisory Board

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, March 1, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was held via teleconference only pursuant to NRS 241.023

Members:

Neoma Jardon, Chair, Councilmember, Ward 5, City of Reno

Oscar Delgado, Councilmember, Ward 3, City of Reno

Ed Lawson, Vice-Chair, Mayor, City of Sparks

Kristopher Dahir, Councilmember, Ward 5, City of Sparks

Alexis Hill, County Commissioner, District 1, Washoe County

Bob Lucey, County Commissioner, District 2, Washoe County

The Community Homelessness Advisory Board convened at 9:05 a.m. via Zoom webinar online. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, Ashley Turney, City Clerk, City of Reno, called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

AGENDA ITEM 2. Roll Call

Present:

Neoma Jardon

Oscar Delgado

Ed Lawson

Kristopher Dahir

Alexis Hill

Bob Lucey

AGENDA ITEM 3. Public Comment (This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.)

Public comment was received from two individuals prior to 4pm the business day proceeding the meeting and were submitted as part of the official record from the following individuals:

Natalie Handler

Ilya Arbatman

Member Jardon stated numerous public comments were received related to funding for police and social workers, however, with there being no item on today's Agenda related to those topics the Board is not at liberty to discuss. An update and discussion on those funding topics will be available at next month's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Approval of Agenda - For Possible Action – March 1, 2021

On motion by Member Hill, seconded by Member Lawson, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Approval of Minutes - For Possible Action – February 1, 2021

On motion by Member Dahir, seconded by Member Lawson, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Presentation on Haven for Hope, a transformational campus located in San Antonio, Texas, and its transitional housing initiatives - David Huete, Haven for Hope

David Huete, Senior Director of Transformational Support Services, Haven for Hope, provided a presentation on the operations, structure, and development of Haven for Hope. Haven for Hope is a 22-acre campus providing services, shelter, and support for those experiencing homelessness within Bexar County.

Mr. Huete provided an overview on the two various shelter options available at the Haven for Hope Campus. The first shelter option includes the Courtyard; a low barrier indoor sleeping and day shelter open to individuals over the age of 18. The second shelter option includes the Transformational Campus, an area with individual dorms for men, women, and families. Transformational Campus clients are required to participate and maintain a Housing and Income Development plan, pass an initial drug test (marijuana exception), and cannot be a registered sex offender.

Member Dahir inquired where individuals who do not meet the nine month residency requirement are able to reside.

Mr. Huete clarified individuals who do not meet the nine month residency requirement can reside at the Courtyard, where they will be introduced to a Haven for Hope Navigator, who will help assist with transformational services.

Mr. Huete emphasized the necessity of Haven for Hope's ID recovery service. The service was implemented to help assist Haven for Hope clients without valid ID to obtain one through a program with Saint Mary's and the San Antonio Police Department.

Arlo Stockham, Acting Assistant City Manager, City of Reno, acknowledged how the Haven for Hope model has helped assist and guide the Nevada Cares Campus project and thanked Mr. Huete for his presentation and involvement.

Member Lawson inquired about Haven for Hope's funding and what agency is operating the campus.

Mr. Huete stated Bill Greehey, Haven for Hope founder, worked closely with the Mayor and Council to develop the Haven for Hope model, additionally Mr. Greehey raised over 100 million dollars for the construction of the campus with over 60% of the funds donated from the private sector. It was also stated that Mr. Greehey raises \$2 - \$3 million dollars to donate towards the annual operating budget from an annual charity golf tournament. Mr. Huete further mentioned the City of San Antonio donated the land for the campus to be built.

Jardon inquired about the date of establishment for the Haven for Hope campus as well as the phasing of construction. Mr. Huete stated the construction of the campus began in 2008 and the campus opened in 2010 and the model had to adjust and change many times due to unforeseeable factors once construction began.

Member Lucey inquired where the location of Haven for Hope campus is within the City of San Antonio. Mr. Huete clarified the campus is located in the center of downtown San Antonio.

Member Jardon thanked Mr. Huete for his presentation and participation in today's meeting.

Member Jardon stated the remaining items will be heard out of order as follows: Item 9, Item 10, and Item 8.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 7. Presentation on the updated Continuum of Care strategic plan - J.D. Klippenstein and Julianna Mayfield, Continuum of Care Leadership Council

J.D. Klippenstein, Northern Nevada Continuum of Care Leadership Council Chair, and Julianna Mayfield, Northern Nevada Continuum of Care leadership Council Vice Chair, provided a brief presentation regarding the restructure and revitalization of the Northern Nevada Continuum of Care.

Mr. Klippenstein stated the Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional planning body that coordinates housing and services for the unsheltered population through support from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Mr. Klippenstein provided an overview of the Northern Nevada CoC Leadership Council (NNCLC) strategic plan. Emphasis was made on growing relationships with stakeholders, improving response services, and enhancing housing services.

Julianna Mayfield, Northern Nevada Continuum of Care leadership Council Vice Chair, provided an overview on the Point In Time Count (PIT) process, an annual single night count of the region's sheltered and unsheltered population. PIT data from 2014 – 2020 was shared and Ms. Mayfield stated the 2021 PIT data will be available after it's reported to HUD in April of 2021.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Board update on the Built for Zero initiative - Dana Searcy, Washoe County

Dana Searcy, Special Projects Manager, Washoe County, provided an update on the Built for Zero data.

Ms. Searcy shared data acquired from 28 individual organizations that represent 72 different housing programs. The data reflected there being 3284 available beds in our community for those experiencing homelessness and of those available beds 735 are open for new individuals as of January 2021. A breakdown on the 3284 beds was given based on how the beds are filled due to gender, age, and families. The data further reflected the open beds have criteria and requirements that affect the acceptance of entry.

Member Jardon thanked Ms. Searcy for providing this useful data and summarized how the data is reflecting over 700 open available beds within the community, however the criteria and requirements that affect the acceptance of entry are creating challenges in filling those vacancies.

Member Hill inquired if financial incentives were available for the 28 organizations to coordinate more closely with Built for Zero.

Ms. Searcy stated this data has brought up many similar questions and suggestions related to funding. Built for Zero will align its efforts and focuses for next steps with the Board and its partners interests.

Member Lawson mentioned the importance of obtaining and inquiring for further low barrier beds.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Board update and discussion on the Nevada Cares Campus including, but not limited to, construction, site improvements, fundraising initiatives, and community stakeholder engagement - Arlo Stockham, City of Reno - For Possible Action

Mr. Stockham, provided an update on the Nevada Cares Campus focusing on the construction progress and timeline. It was mentioned the campus is scheduled to open early April. Unforeseeable factors involving undocumented materials underground along with weather caused delays on excavation and pouring of concrete.

Mr. Stockham stated the temporary tent and restroom rentals expire on the 15th of March, and the rental agreement needs to be extended for one month. The cost estimate for the additional rental fees is up to \$185,000. Negotiations are currently underway regarding the cost estimate and an update is scheduled for the upcoming April CHAB meeting. Mr. Stockham's recommendation is for the additional rental fees to be divided in accordance with the long standing formula for Shelter Operations in the Interlocal Agreement.

Mr. Stockham mentioned a future discussion is scheduled during the upcoming April CHAB meeting to discuss details of a phase two and three improvement plan for the Nevada Cares Campus. Efforts and ideas for the phase two improvement plan include a designated intake center, resource center, kitchen, cafeteria, and animal services. Phase three improvement plans at this time are conceptually focused on the housing elements of the campus, involving Reno Housing Authorities ownership of the five acre section of the campus beginning in the next 10 months.

Member Jardon requested an online template by mid-April to begin displaying overtime the working phases of the improvement plans.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance and desire for a template and layout regarding the ongoing construction of the Nevada Cares Campus for point of reference and

Fundraising efforts and the private sectors involvement continues to be of great importance during the development of this Campus.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Board update and discussion related to the transition and responsibilities of regional shelter operations, including but not limited to, the Continuum of Care and a safe camp at the Nevada Cares Campus - Regional Agencies Staff

Mr. Stockham provided an overview of last month's discussion regarding Washoe County's transition to lead agency for the Nevada Cares Campus homeless services.

Mr. Stockham mentioned Managers and staff are discussing a recommendation and agreement regarding the funding and operations for the campus homeless services to present at the April CHAB meeting.

Mr. Stockham stated a sanctioned camping area at the Governor Bowl site is recommended as an immediate and urgent need. The initial step of transitioning to sanctioned camping involves Washoe County managing the Governor Bowl site. Mr. Stockham stated Washoe County has an initial operating budget estimated at \$500,000, however this budget excluded security services. A detailed plan is being developed to present at the April CHAB meeting, including a cost share agreement regarding the shelter facility and management of the encampments. Funding for the camping area is to be divided in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement formula.

Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager, Washoe County, confirmed the County is acquiring a budget and provider for the sanction camping project. The physical site has additional construction work to be completed before occupancy can begin.

Discussion ensued on the importance of community outreach and involvement on the Nevada Cares Campus project.

Ms. Thomas was unable to provide an anticipated opening date for sanction camping but ensured the County is working diligently to get the site operational in a timely manner.

Member Lucey inquired what efforts are being taken to address security and trespassing issues at the campus and within surrounding neighborhoods and businesses.

Mr. Stockham stated the Clean and Safe team along with the Karma Box Project team have been completing extensive outreach to communicate and inform the unsheltered population of the shelter location, availability, and services. Notification of the Nevada Cares Campus project and special use permit to establish the campus were distributed to all surrounding businesses and neighborhoods informing the community of the development.

Jason Soto, Chief of Police, Reno Police Department, mentioned Code Enforcement is participating in outreach to the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses to retain information on how they are being affected and what areas need improvement.

Discussion ensued on the importance of community outreach and involvement during the Nevada Cares Campus project and the desire for a template of the construction phases.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Board members announcements and updates, including future agenda items requests. No discussion will take place on this item.

Member Hill requested to have the region's law enforcement agencies next presentation include the current laws and regulations being enforced, in addition to the outreach efforts taking place within the community.

AGENDA ITEM 12. Public Comment (This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.)

Written public comment was received from and apart of the official record for the following individuals:

Aimee Hadleigh

Richie Bednarski

Rain Fernandez
Josemanuel Cruz
Ilya Arbatman
Natalie Henriques
Jake Maynard
Kelsey Hoffman
Heidi Siwajian
Johanna Grantham
Natalie Handler

AGENDA ITEM 13. Adjournment - For Possible Action

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Member Lawson, seconded by Member Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.